



CALGARY

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

APRIL 04, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are read by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plan prepared by Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.

© CBC 2015 Permission is granted to reproduce these pages for educational purposes only. For more information on copyright, please click: <http://www.cbc.ca/permissions>

NEWSCAST 1

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A LOOSE MOOSE?



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/shawnessy-moose-tranquilized-relocated-march-30-1.3512396>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Have you ever seen a moose? Look at the title. What does loose mean? Where do you think this moose is?

LISTENING TASK 1 (Audio Clip 0:09)

Instructions: Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension. Take notes in the space below so that you can describe what you heard afterwards.

SPEAKING ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Describe what you heard or understood from the news story.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Look at the vocabulary used in the news story below.

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
officers	people holding a position of authority
subdue	bring under control
trot	(with reference to a horse or other 4-legged animal) a faster pace than a walk
retail area	an area with stores and shops
tranquilize	administer a tranquilizing drug to a person or animal
dart	a small arrow
a little wander	a little walk or stroll
show up	to arrive or make an appearance
in good shape	sound and sturdy; physically fit; functioning well
relaxed	at ease; free from tension and worries
immobilize	prevent something or someone from moving; disable
fire	shoot a bullet or arrow
go down	to fall
load	put something into a vehicle
relocation	moving to a new place
make way	travel

LISTENING TASK 2 (Audio Clip 0:09)

Instructions: Listen to the newscast again now that you reviewed the vocabulary above.

SPEAKING ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Describe the situation again using the vocabulary above to help you.

READING/PRONUNCIATION ACTIVITY

Instructions: Read the script below to practice your pronunciation of the new vocabulary. If you wish to listen to the audio clip again (0:09) do so.

Fish and Wildlife **officers subdued** a moose in south Calgary Wednesday morning after it **trotted** around a **retail area**.

The animal was **tranquilized** near a parking lot at the southwest corner of Shawnessy Boulevard and Macleod Trail after going for **a little wander** near a Canadian Tire store around 7 a.m.

Alberta Fish and Wildlife **officers showed up** after being contacted by Calgary police and managed to **subdue** the animal by approximately 9 a.m.

An official with Alberta Fish and Wildlife said, "The moose was **in good shape**; she was **relaxed**. But, due to her location, we decided to **immobilize** her."

An **officer fired** a single **tranquilizer dart** into the 250-kilogram animal and she **went down** within five minutes.

The animal was then **loaded** into a truck for **relocation** to Kananaskis Country.

Alberta Fish and Wildlife said the moose likely **made its way** into the developed area via Fish Creek Park.

If you wish, you can click play to see the video clip of the moose going down after being shot by the tranquilizer dart.

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS

Instructions: Discuss or consider the questions below.

1. What do you think of this story?
2. Are you familiar with the Canadian moose? What do you know about them?
3. If you were in a shopping area and saw a moose, would you be surprised?
4. Have you heard a similar story of a wild animal appearing in an urban area?

NEWSCAST 2

CALGARY MILLENNIALS AREN'T SAVING ENOUGH CASH FOR THEIR RETIREMENT YEARS



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/seniors-retire-with-more-debt-young-people-aren-t-saving-1.3450941>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) 5 or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Look at the image and the title above. Do you know what a millennial is? If not, see the definition below. Are you saving money for retirement? Why or why not?

Millennial definition: a person reaching young adulthood around the year 2000

LISTENING TASK 1 (Audio Clip 1:31)

Instructions: Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension. Take notes in the space below.

READING ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Read the script below. Underline the words you do not understand.

A new study from the Broadbent Institute shows that Calgary millennials aren't saving enough cash for their **retirement** years and more seniors are at risk of retiring in **poverty**.

For many, retirement is **at the back of their minds**. Daniel Harrison **specializes** in helping other millennials manage their money and says most of his clients aren't properly educated about **retirement**. He says people **put off** saving or **paying down debt** until they are closer to **retirement** and "that's when they **realize** it's too late."

In order to improve his personal finances - he **consulted** banks and **switched** his **focus** from **earning more** to **controlling his spending** - and says he's **in better shape** for the future.

Researchers with the Broadbent institute found that only 15 - 20 per cent of middle-income Canadians who are retiring without an employer **pension** have saved enough to retire comfortably.

About 47 per cent of Canadians don't have a **pension** from their employer and that number drops **among** younger workers.

That means the number of seniors who **slip into poverty** will **worsen** in the decades ahead as more seniors are becoming dependent on government programs like **Canada Pension Plan** and **Old Age Security**, the report says.

The report's author is **urging** federal government to move quickly on CPP **reform** and to think about **enhancing** the **GIS** benefit for both singles and couples entering retirement to reduce their chances of **slipping into poverty**.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Look at the vocabulary used in the news story below.

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
retirement	stopping to work
poverty	being poor
at the back of (one's) mind	something understood or known but far away in your mind; known but not very important
specialize	become an expert in a particular subject or skill
put off	delay until a later time
pay down	reduce the amount of debt you have by repaying money you have borrowed
debt	money that is owed
realize	become aware of something; understand clearly
improve	make or become better
consult	seek information or advice from someone (with expertise in a particular area)
switch	change position, direction, or focus of
focus	something of interest or paying attention to
earn more	make more money
control (one's) spending	watch how much money you spend; only buy what is needed
in better shape	in a better position than before; fitter than before
pension	a regular payment made during a person's retirement from an investment fund to which you or your employer contributed to during your working life
among	surrounded by
slip into	to easily move into
worsen	get worse or bad
Canada Pension Plan (CPP)	the CPP program is a plan that all Canadians who are 18 years of age and older contribute a portion of the money they make to a national pension plan.
Old Age Security (OAS)	the old age security program is the government of Canada's largest pension program. it is funded by the government of Canada and available to those who are 65 and over and who meet the Canadian legal and residence requirements
urge	try to persuade/convince someone to do something
reform	make changes to something in order to improve it (typically something political)
enhance	increase or improve the quality of
Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	Guaranteed Income Supplement provides a monthly non-taxable benefit to old age security pension recipients who have a low income and are living in Canada.

LISTENING TASK 2 (Audio Clip 1:31)

Instructions: Listen to the news story again now that you have read the script and reviewed the vocabulary. Follow along with the script if you'd like.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For information about the Canada Pension Plan versus Old Age Security, click on the link: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/taxes/canada-pension-plan-vs-old-age-security-the-differences-explained-1.1239963>

What is CPP?

The Canada Pension Plan is a form of retirement income that is open to all Canadians who have worked and paid into the system through deductions from their paycheques. The amount a person receives under the system depends on how much and for how long a person contributed, along with the age at which a person started receiving CPP payments.

There are four types of CPP benefits: disability benefits, retirement pension, survivor benefits and post-retirement benefits (introduced in 2012).

The government adjusts the CPP rate every January to account for changes in cost of living as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

According to Service Canada, "If you have lived and worked in Canada most years between age 18 and 65 and earned about the average Canadian wage (\$39,100 in 2002), at age 65 you would receive a CPP retirement pension of about \$788 a month."

What is OAS?

The Old Age Security pension is a monthly payment available to Canadians age 65 and older who apply and meet certain requirements. Unlike CPP, it is not dependent on a person's employment history and a person does not need to be retired from a job to qualify for it.

The government adjusts the OAS payment every three months to account for increases in the cost of living according to the Consumer Price Index. The average monthly amount as of October 2012 was \$514.56. The maximum payout for the first quarter of 2013 is \$546.07, according to Service Canada.

There are also supplementary programs, including the Guaranteed Income Supplement, which provide additional income to low-income seniors.

The government claws back OAS payments from high-income Canadians. In 2013, if you are retired but have an income of more than \$70,954 (from things like pensions and personal investments), the government will reclaim part of your OAS payment — 15 cents for every dollar of income above the \$70,954 threshold, which is adjusted annually for inflation. That means that if you are retired with an annual income of \$114,640 or more in 2013, your OAS payout will be reduced to zero.

NEWSCAST 3

PHOTO OF JUSTIN TRUDEAU DOING YOGA MAKES THE INTERNET FREAK OUT – AGAIN



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/trending/justin-trudeau-yoga-photo-peacock-pose-2013-pierre-trudeau-1.3513238>



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/trending/justin-trudeau-yoga-photo-peacock-pose-2013-pierre-trudeau-1.3513238>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) 5 or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Look at the title and the images. What does freak out mean? What do you think this story is about?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Look at the vocabulary used in the news story below. Match the vocabulary with the correct definition. The first one is done for you.

ANSWER	VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
6	A. swoon	1. a yoga pose known as the peacock pose
	B. feat	2. a particular way of standing or sitting; posture; position
	C. Mayurasana	3. to accomplish something; to get away with something
	D. parallel	4. give rise to; encourage; cause; motivate
	E. pull off	5. a person that is good looking
	F. pose	6. be emotionally affected by someone you admire; become ecstatic
	G. viral	7. having a keen interest or enthusiasm for something
	H. inspire	8. a person actively engaged in art, discipline, or profession, especially medicine
	I. hot	9. something extended in a line; side by side; equidistant
	J. avid	10. an image or something that is shared rapidly on the Internet
	K. practitioner	11. an achievement that requires great courage, skill, or strength

LISTENING TASK 1 (Audio Clip 3:43)

Instructions: Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension. Take notes in the space below.

LISTENING TASK 2 (Audio Clip 3:43)

Instructions: Listen to the news story again. While listening, respond to the questions below.

1. Why are people **swooning** over Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau?
2. Why is the Mayurasana pose known as the “peacock pose” considered a **feat**?
3. Why has the picture **inspired** a flood of Twitter posts about how **hot** the Canadian Prime Minister is?
4. Where did Justin Trudeau learn this pose?

READING/PRONUNCIATION ACTIVITY

Instructions: Read the script below to practice your pronunciation and check your answers above. If you wish to listen to the audio clip again (3:43) do so.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is making the world **swoon** once again this week, simply by appearing in a photo from his own past — though, for most people, there's nothing simple about his **feat**.

The photo shows the Prime Minister in the **Mayurasana** yoga **pose** known as the “peacock pose”. It involves placing your entire weight on the wrists and hands while keeping your body straight and **parallel** to the floor. It requires a great deal of balance and physical strength to **pull off** this pose.

Impressive, but why is this three-year-old image going **viral** right now? It appears that a Facebook post by Toronto yoga teacher is responsible. Now nearly 5,000 shares later, every international news outlet from CNN to the Guardian has written about Trudeau the yogi, **inspiring** a new flood of Twitter posts about how **hot** the Canadian prime minister is.

It's not every day that the Internet sees a world leader demonstrating such incredible core and upper-body strength outside of Russia.

While Trudeau has **shown** on several occasions that he knows a thing or two about yoga, it's unclear whether he learned this particular move from his wife, Sophie, a certified yoga instructor, or from his father. Former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who himself was an **avid practitioner** of yoga, was photographed doing the peacock pose in 1970, one year before Justin was born.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3:

PHOTO OF JUSTIN TRUDEAU DOING YOGA MAKES THE INTERNET FREAK OUT – AGAIN

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Freak out refers to how people react when something bad or good happens. It means to go crazy, overreact, etc.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

ANSWER	VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
6	A. swoon	1. a yoga pose known as the peacock pose
11	B. feat	2. a particular way of standing or sitting; posture; position
1	C. Mayurasana	3. To accomplish something; to get away with something
9	D. parallel	4. give rise to; encourage; cause; motivate
3	E. pull off	5. a person that is good looking
2	F. pose	6. be emotionally affected by someone you admire; become ecstatic
10	G. viral	7. having a keen interest or enthusiasm for something
4	H. inspire	8. a person actively engaged in art, discipline, or profession, especially medicine
5	I. hot	9. something extended in a line; side by side; equidistant
7	J. avid	10. an image or something that is shared rapidly on the Internet
8	K. practitioner	11. an achievement that requires great courage, skill, or strength

LISTENING TASK 2

1. Why are people **swooning** over Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau?
They are admiring a recent photo of the prime minister in a yoga pose that demonstrates his core and upper-body strength.
2. Why is the Mayurasana pose known as the “peacock pose” considered a **feat**?
It requires a great deal of balance and physical strength to pull off this pose.
3. Why has the picture **inspired** a flood of Twitter posts about how **hot** the Canadian Prime Minister is?
It's not every day that the Internet sees a world leader demonstrating such incredible core and upper-body strength outside of Russia.
4. Where did Justin Trudeau learn this pose?
It's unclear whether he learned this pose from his wife, Sophie or from his father

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of April 3 rd .	0:00
Newscast 1 (Local Story) Moose in Shawnessy near Canadian Tire http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/shawnessy-moose-tranquilized-relocated-march-30-1.3512396	<p>Fish and Wildlife officers subdued a moose in south Calgary Wednesday morning after it trotted around a retail area.</p> <p>The animal was tranquilized near a parking lot at the southwest corner of Shawnessy Boulevard and Macleod Trail after going for a little wander near a Canadian Tire store around 7 a.m.</p> <p>Alberta Fish and Wildlife officers showed up after being contacted by Calgary police and managed to subdue the animal by approximately 9 a.m.</p> <p>An official with Alberta Fish and Wildlife said, "The moose was in good shape; she was relaxed. But, due to her location, we decided to immobilize her."</p> <p>An officer fired a single tranquilizer dart into the 250-kilogram animal and she went down within five minutes.</p> <p>The animal was then loaded into a truck for relocation to Kananaskis Country.</p> <p>Alberta Fish and Wildlife said the moose likely made its way into the developed area via Fish Creek Park.</p>	0:09

<p>Newscast 2 (National Story)</p> <p>Calgary millennials aren't saving enough cash for their retirement years</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/seniors-retire-with-more-debt-young-people-aren-t-saving-1.3450941</p>	<p>A new study from the Broadbent Institute shows that Calgary millennials aren't saving enough cash for their retirement years and more seniors are at risk of retiring in poverty.</p> <p>For many, retirement is at the back of their minds. Daniel Harrison specializes in helping other millennials manage their money and says most of his clients aren't properly educated about retirement. He says people put off saving or paying down debt until they are closer to retirement and "that's when they realize it's too late."</p> <p>In order to improve his personal finances - he consulted banks and switched his focus from earning more to controlling his spending - and says he's in better shape for the future.</p> <p>Researchers with the Broadbent institute found that only 15 - 20 per cent of middle-income Canadians who are retiring without an employer pension have saved enough to retire comfortably.</p> <p>About 47 per cent of Canadians don't have a pension from their employer and that number drops among younger workers.</p> <p>That means the number of seniors who slip into poverty will worsen in the decades ahead as more seniors are becoming dependent on government programs like Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security, the report says.</p> <p>The report's author is urging federal government to move quickly on CPP reform and to think about enhancing the GIS benefit for both singles and couples entering retirement to reduce their chances of slipping into poverty.</p>	<p>1:31</p>
---	---	-------------

<p>Newscast 3 (National Story)</p> <p>Photo of Justin Trudeau doing yoga makes the internet freak out – again</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/trending/justin-trudeau-yoga-photo-peacock-pose-2013-pierre-trudeau-1.3513238</p>	<p>Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is making the world swoon once again this week, simply by appearing in a photo from his own past — though, for most people, there's nothing simple about his feat.</p> <p>The photo shows the Prime minister in the Mayurasana yoga pose known as the “peacock pose”. It involves placing your entire weight on the wrists and hands while keeping your body straight and parallel to the floor. It requires a great deal of balance and physical strength to pull off this pose.</p> <p>Impressive, but why is this three-year-old image going viral right now?</p> <p>It appears that a Facebook post by Toronto yoga teacher is responsible. Now nearly 5,000 shares later, every international news outlet from CNN to the Guardian has written about Trudeau the yogi, inspiring a new flood of Twitter posts about how hot the Canadian prime minister is.</p> <p>It's not every day that the internet sees a world leader demonstrating such incredible core and upper-body strength outside of Russia.</p> <p>While Trudeau has shown on several occasions that he knows a thing or two about yoga, it's unclear whether he learned this particular move from his wife, Sophie, a certified yoga instructor, or from his father.</p> <p>Former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who himself was an avid practitioner of yoga, was photographed doing the peacock pose in 1970, one year before Justin was born.</p>	<p>3:43</p>
--	--	-------------

Thank you for using Learning English with CBC. If you have any questions or comments, please email info@communication4integration.ca